

Provost's Report to Senate

December 2014

Decanal Review

The Decanal Review within the Faculty of Business Administration is currently being conducted. It is anticipated that the process will be completed by the end of January 2015.

MTCU'S Shared Online Course Fund

In response to the MTCU's call for proposals for online courses (Shared Online Course Fund), Lakehead submitted six applications - two from the Faculty of Education, two from the Department of History, one from the Department of Health Sciences and one from the School of Kinesiology. If successful, these revised courses will allow students to complete program requirements off-campus thus expanding our ability to attract and retain students.

Aboriginal Initiatives

Community Relations

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives hosted an Indigenous Knowledge Lecture Series, featuring Dr. Allan Downey of Nak'azdli First Nation and George Kenny of Lac Seul First Nation. Dr. Downey, Academic Associate in Indigenous Studies from McGill University, spoke to his dissertation, *The Creator's Game*. In addition, the re-launch of *Indians Don't Cry*, by author George Kenny, HBA and a graduate student at Lakehead was celebrated. There were 75 people in attendance including faculty, staff, students as well as community members.

Faculty of Business Administration

Two students from the Faculty of Business Administration have been ranked among the top undergraduate students at this year's final round of the Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (ICBC), to be held at Queen's University, January 15 through 17, 2015. Fourth year Honours Bachelor of Commerce students Rachel Labate and Mitch Fillman were selected as one of the top six teams in the Accounting Division of this year's competition.

Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering is proud to announce that students from both Chemical and Electrical Engineering have earned awards in national competitions.

A team of Lakehead University chemical engineering students placed first in the SNC-Lavalin Undergraduate Plant Design Competition. Comprised of Nathan Blundon, Eric Czackowski, Travis Roske and Matt Smith, the Lakehead team placed first in the finals against teams from the University of Waterloo and the University of Ottawa.

Electrical Engineering students Bradford Bondy and Jonathan Holm won the first prize in the 2014 IEEE Canada Student Paper Competition for their paper entitled "A NOVEL ANALOG-DIGITAL HYBRID SYNTHESIZER SEQUENCER DESIGN".

The Faculty of Engineering has received MTCU approval to begin the MSc in Civil Engineering program. The Faculty looks forward to the opportunity to train new graduate students and develop research programs in the civil engineering field.

Student Affairs

Continuing Education & Distributed Learning

As an outreach to the leaders in social-benefit organizations in Northwestern Ontario who are faced with an increasingly complex environment, a new non-credit course *Social Innovation and Leadership in Complexity* is being offered through a collaboration of the Office of Continuing Education and Distributed Learning, Drs. Mirella Stroink and Connie Nelson and the 180 Institute (www.180institute.com). Through conversational learning techniques and practical exercises, Drs. Stroink and Nelson aim to enhance the capacities to perceive, reason, and manage within complexity, to nurture an ecology of innovation, and to discover the simple solutions that often lie on the other side of complex problems.

Enrolment Services

Undergrad Recruitment

The Undergrad Recruitment team, in recruiting for the next incoming class of 2015, has visited approximately 780 high schools, colleges and universities over the past three months. They have also attended/hosted the following events:

- **Ontario Universities' Fair**
Approximately 130,000 visitors (7% increase in attendance from 2013) attended the fair.
- **Educator's Seminars (Thunder Bay & Orillia Campuses)**
Guidance professionals and other key educators from Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County attended Educator's Seminars at both campuses in late October and early November to receive the latest updates on Lakehead University.
- **Preview Day (Orillia Campus)**
Approximately 300 prospective students and key influencers visited the Orillia Campus to explore the campus, program offerings and hear from faculty and staff.
- **GTA Preview Day (Mississauga)**
Over 50 guests attended this first time event to continue to learn more about Lakehead University.

The 2014 Thunder Bay Campus Preview Day will be held on **December 2**. The involvement of academic units is critical to our success in showcasing the comprehensive array of program offerings that Lakehead has available. Please contact Emily Shandruk, Manager of Undergraduate Recruitment at ext. 7290 for more information.

On behalf of Undergrad Recruitment, a big thank you to all faculty and staff that have been involved in various recruitment efforts during this critical point in time of the recruitment process – your participation makes a significant difference in showing prospective students the Lakehead difference.

Academic Advising, Records and Registration

The December exam schedule has been posted online: <http://examtime.lakeheadu.ca>.

Student Accessibility Services

Student Accessibility Services continues to see an increase in requests for services. There has been a 19% increase in tests written through the office this fall term (750 in 2013, 891 in 2014). To address the need for additional space and the shortage of available rooms, the old Nanabijou Child Care Space (Prettie) is being utilized as a Testing Centre. This quiet location has proven to be most appropriate and much appreciated by students.

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre (SSC) hosted a series of events for students with wonderful turnout and engagements:

- **First Generation Student Supports Fair - Inaugural Event** held in the Chancellor Paterson Library on November 10. Over 125 students took part in the interactive displays, first-gen faculty meet & greet lounge, and Writing Centre games
- **Engineering Career Fair** - eighteen local, regional and national engineering firms were welcomed onto campus on November 12 to recruit Lakehead graduating students. Over 250 students took part in the Fair, which included the new SSC photo booth, providing students with professional headshots appropriate for online use on their job search profiles (e.g. LinkedIn).

Two new staff members have joined the Student Success Centre team to support students:

- **Evan Matson**, Student Success Advisor, (807) 346.7914, ematson@lakeheadu.ca
- **Jolene Pugliese**, Co-Op & Employer Relations Officer, (807) 343.8986, coop@lakeheadu.ca

Web Development Services

The following web services were launched:

- High Resolution Self-Service Image Library with *Marketing Support*
- Online Application for Student Identification Card with *Library*
- Sexual Assault Support webpages with *Vice-Provost, Student Affairs*

Web Development Services has worked closely with *Alumni Relations* in rebranding their website. A soft launch of the new Alumni Website took place November 13 as part of the Alumni Association's Annual General Meeting. Key functionality was enabling online, recurring payment for Alumni's monthly donation program, *Pay it Forward*.

The Faculty of Education's Field Assessment tool has been enhanced to include a communication component. Timed messages and resource links are presented to Associate Teachers creating a convenient tool to assist them in their work. This enhanced tool was renamed the "Professional Year Portal".

The upgraded Online Faculty/Staff Directory will be launched on December 3 with Switchboard.

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)